

**United States Marine Corps**

**MCCS**

---

MARINE CORPS  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
*Partner's for Readiness*

A Commander's Guide to the  
Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

## Your Family Advocacy Program (FAP)

Marines believe in respect – of themselves and others. Family violence or neglect conflicts with this belief, detracts from military performance, negatively impacts the efficient functioning and morale of military units, and diminishes the reputation and prestige of the Marine Corps.

The fewer Marines involved in family violence, the less time all levels of command have to spend on investigations, measures to protect victims, rehabilitation programs for offenders that result in time away from work, and other subsequent actions. More Marines will be mission ready, and unit performance will be enhanced.

The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) supports commands and the mission of the Marine Corps by working in partnership with commanders to prevent and intervene in family violence.

---

## Definition Of Family Violence

**Family violence is** any act, whether of omission or commission, that is physically, emotionally, sexually, and/or psychologically harmful and intended to achieve power and control over the victim. Family violence often involves a pattern of controlling behavior, reinforced by violence or its threat. Violence against any family member is unacceptable in all circumstances but self-defense.

### USMC Policy on Family Violence

- All suspected abuse must be properly reported (see REPORTING PROCEDURES).
- Safety of the victim and at-risk family members, from both the violence or other abuse and threats of abuse, must be the priority. Be aware of the risks intervention may pose.
- Offenders must be held accountable.
- Family violence, rape, and sexual assault are:
  - crimes, no less important than other crimes.
  - incompatible with the professional and personal excellence required in the Marine Corps.
  - antithetical to Corps' mission and Core Values.

***A Marine who abuses a family member or commits rape or sexual assault cannot be considered a good Marine.***

---

## What Are The Causes Of Spouse/Child Abuse

- **Family violence occurs because of** the abuser's belief that family members should be subordinates and that any means to maintain control over them is justified.
- **Family violence is a learned behavior** that comes from surrounding cultures and social norms, and many times from experiences from childhood. It is reinforced by an institutional and social environment that too often does not respond to incidents of violence and that sends out many subtle messages that condone family violence.
- **Family violence IS NOT cause by** such factors as stress, anger, job pressures, personal problems, behavior of the victim, or mental illness EXCEPT IN VERY RARE INSTANCES. Offenders typically use these problems to excuse or to justify their abusive behavior and to manipulate others into sympathizing with them.

---

## Commander's Responsibilities

### All Commanders Should:

- Be knowledgeable about:
  - indicators of abuse, e.g., frequent and or unexpected injuries (facial bruises, marks on the neck), inconsistent or suspicious explanations for injury, fearfulness of victim toward abuser, changes in appropriate behavior, depression or anxiety, verbal abuse of victim in public, excessive jealousy.
  - dynamics of abuse and techniques of control, including financial.
  - impact of command action on victim safety.
  - local resources to assist victims, particularly child protective services, domestic violence shelters, and rape crisis centers.
- Establish a climate that supports prevention and makes clear that family violence, rape and sexual assault are unacceptable behaviors.
- Report all suspected abuse.
- Ensure that the service member reports to the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) office the next working day for an assessment.
- Make victim safety a high priority.

- Provide a qualified representative at all Case Review Committee (CRC) meetings involving members of their command.

The commanding office has sole authority to establish the disposition for a member of the command.

---

## Reporting Procedures

### Spouse Abuse:

- Take measures to protect the victim:
  - call law enforcement in high-risk situations,
  - keep parties separate until risk assessment completed,
  - issue Military Protective Order (MPO),\*
  - assist victim in obtaining medical treatment, and
  - assist victim in obtaining Victim Advocacy, shelter, and other services as desired.
- Report suspected abuse to your local FAP office.
- At duty stations without a local FAP office, report suspected abuse to the unit designated Family Advocacy Program Officer (FAPO).

### Child Abuse and Neglect:

- Take measures to protect the victim, including calling police in high-risk situations.
- Issue Child Removal Order (CRO).\*
- Report suspected abuse to your local FAP office.
- At duty station without a FAP office, report suspected abuse to the local Child Protective Services (CPS) agency, and the unit designated Family Advocacy Program Officer (FAPO).

\*For a description and sample of a MPO and CRO, refer to the Command Family Advocacy Handbook.

---

## Coordinated Community Response (CCR)

The Marine Corps established a “Coordinated Community Response” (CCR) to family violence as a way of bringing together all the critical responders to the Family Advocacy Program. The CCR is a Command managed interdisciplinary approach that formalizes policies and procedures through a Case Review Committee (CRC).

**The Quality of Life (QOL) Council** is a multi-disciplinary group, established by the installation commander, to address all QOL issues on the installation.

A Coordinated Community Response has the following objectives, to establish within the Marine Corps:

- A common policy of:
  - no tolerance for family violence,
  - community wide responsibility,
  - commitment to change the underlying causes of family violence,
  - victim protection and support, and
  - offender accountability.
- Standardized procedures for:
  - prevention,
  - intervention, and
  - rehabilitation and treatment.

---

## **Case Review Committee (CRC)**

**The CASE Review Committee (CRC)** is a multi-disciplinary team of service providers and professionals, appointed by the installation commander, who are directly involved with individual cases of abuse and neglect. On large installations with a heavy caseload, the CRC may be broken into subcommittees designed to manage specific type of cases, such as child abuse or spouse abuse. The CRC is charged with:

- reviewing all reported incidents of abuse,
- determining case status, and
- recommending disposition of the case to the commander.

### **Voting members of the CRC:**

- FAP Manager (FAPM) – the chairperson,
- The installation command element,
- A Judge Advocate (JA),
- Military Treatment Facility (MTF), a physician,
- Provost Marshall's Office (PMO),
- Substance Abuse Counseling Center (SACC),
- The victim/offender command representative, and the
- Child Protective Services (CPS) representative for child abuse cases.

**The following representatives should also be present during case review meetings:**

- The victim's advocate, and
- The FAP counselor assigned to the case.

**Optional non-voting representatives on the CRC:**

- The Child Development Center (CDC),
- Shelter manger,
- School or community health nurses,
- Dental Treatment Facility (DTF),
- A Chaplain,
- Clinical staff, and
- Other law enforcement personnel.

---

## **Intervention**

### **Command Roles in Intervention**

**Command should make clear that:**

- Family violence is unacceptable and must be reported.
  - Reporting is mandatory.
  - Report suspected abuse to the Provost Marshall's Office (PMO) within 24 hours of identification or immediately if the situation is high risk.
  - If in doubt contact the local FAP office.
- All members of the unit are aware of the indicators of family violence and know their responsibilities.
- Failure to take action can have serious consequences for the victim, the command, and the Marine Corps.
- Victims must be protected and their integrity and autonomy respected.
  - Pay close attention to safety recommendations of PMO and the victim advocate.
  - Ensure victim is aware of safety measures taken.
  - Provide copies of the Military Protective Order (MPO) and Child Removal Order (CRO) to:
    - the victim,
    - PMO,
    - FAPO,
    - FAPM, and
    - the offender.

- Offenders will be held accountable.
- Self reporting is given positive consideration.
- All members of the command must cooperate with the intervention efforts of all military and civilian agencies.
- When possible, the offender should not be sent PCS or on a long-term deployment until after mandated rehabilitation is complete.

---

## Prevention and Preparedness

**Your Marine Corps Community Service** offers a wide range of educational, support, and awareness programs aimed at family abuse prevention as well as individual and unit preparedness.

The FAP staff can provide information to military and civilian supervisors on how to recognize the stressors that can put service members, spouses, and children at risk. Training and information can also be provided on how, and to whom, victims and offenders of family violence can be referred.

The command role in prevention is to establish a climate that confronts the beliefs and values that cause and reinforce family violence and to establish clear standards for personal family behavior and to hold offenders accountable.

Training is conducted for commanders, sergeant majors, first sergeants, and supervisors on how to recognize domestic violence. Our outreach programs include:

- unit visits,
- educational programs to command,
- home and community support group visits, and
- unit workshops and classes.

### For Prevention

The resources and services offered by the MCCA and FAP are another tool the commander has to insure that all Marines are mission ready. Your MCCA and FAP conducts classes, workshops, and seminars on the following subjects:

- Marriage Skills,
- Prevention & Relationship Enhancement,

fdf

- Parenting,\*
- Stress Management,
- Anger Management,
- Financial Management,
- Women's Support Groups,
- Building Self-esteem, and
- Resolving Conflict.

**\*The New Parent Support Program (NPSP)**

provides supportive services to Marine Corps families who are expecting or have a child(ren) under the age of six.

**The NPSP will:**

- help parents prepare for a new baby's arrival,
- help new parents deal with the challenges of parenting infants and young children,
- address the concerns of new parents in the privacy of their home,
- set up local support groups,
- provide a list of appropriate community agencies,
- set up home visits by an RN before birth, after delivery, and home postpartum,
- support the demands of military life,
- provide tips on effective communications, and
- help single military parents with their needs.

---

## **Rape And Sexual Assault**

**Sexual abuse is defined as, but not limited to:**

rape, voyeurism, exhibitionism, fondling, oral stimulation, penetration by digit or object, vaginal or anal intercourse, sexual exploitation, or forced involvement with pornography activities.

**Sexual activity by an adult with a minor is**

**ALWAYS sexual abuse.** Claims of provocation (e.g., in the form of clothing, mannerisms, flirting, being at an unsuitable place, not saying "NO," or appearing older than the actual age) do not negate or minimize the fact of sexual abuse.

**The symptoms of sexual abuse include:**

- Difficulty walking or sitting.
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.



- Pain or itching in genital area.
- Infections in the genital area.
- Infections in the genital area or sexually transmitted diseases.
- Unusual behavior such as:
  - unwillingness to change for gym,
  - unwillingness to participate in physical education classes,
  - withdrawal/fantasy/infantile behavior,
  - bizarre/sophisticated/unusual sexual behavior or knowledge,
  - poor peer relationships,
  - delinquency or running away,
  - reports of sexual assault,
  - poor self-esteem,
  - fear/phobia of adults,
  - distortion of body images,
  - general feelings of shame/guilt,
  - sudden deterioration in academic performance,
  - suicidal feelings or behavior
  - regressive behavior, and sexually abused sibling.

Rape and sexual assault are serious and violent criminal acts. Accordingly, Commanders will insure that victims of these crimes get treated with respect, dignity, and in such a manner that their privacy is maintained to the maximum extent possible.

Even though the handling of alleged rape and sexual assault cases is not a FAP responsibility, the victims of rape, sexual assault, and abuse should be directed to FAP for counseling and assistance. Therefore, the FAP “umbrella” of treatment and assistance includes:

- all juvenile victims of abuse (sexual, physical, or verbal) and neglect,
  - all adult victims of spouse abuse, and
  - all adult victims of rape and sexual assault regardless of whether the offense was or was not committed by a family member.
-

**Local MCCS & FAP  
Phone Numbers/Notes**

**Phone Numbers**

**Notes**